

November 24, 2021

Administrator Michael S. Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

We, the undersigned hunting and angling organizations representing millions of sportsmen, outdoor recreation groups and related businesses, thank you and the EPA for your commitment to resolving the matter of protecting Bristol Bay, Alaska from the threats posed by large-scale mining proposed for the region. We urge EPA to take immediate action under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to finish the job it started in 2014 and protect the fish and wildlife resources of Bristol Bay and all dependent upon them. We support EPA in completing the 404(c) process as swiftly as possible, and we are committed to engaging in the process to achieve that goal.

For well over a decade, America's angling and hunting communities have participated in the important debate over the future of one of the planet's very finest fishing and hunting destinations – southwest Alaska's famed Bristol Bay region. We have registered our opinions and official comments numerous times with federal agencies and elected officials through administrative and legislative processes.

The one unwavering goal to all this effort is to see Bristol Bay and all dependent upon it protected from the tremendous threats posed by the proposed Pebble Mine project. The statistics and superlatives are well known, both positive (\$2.2 billion value of the fishery, 15,000 sustainable jobs, global bucket list sporting destination, tens of millions of wild sockeye salmon returning year after year, etc.) and negative (enormous size of mine, risk of pollution, etc.). The general facts haven't changed in all the years we've been fighting for Bristol Bay.

This issue has cut across lines in the region, bringing together user groups who'd forever been competitive against the others for the salmon resource. No one thought that would ever happen, but the coalition formed to defend Bristol Bay is as strong as it is diverse. Protecting Bristol Bay also has support from both ends of the political spectrum as we are sure you are aware.

The EPA has an opportunity now to guarantee a future for Bristol Bay that will generate economic opportunities while also conserving sporting and cultural traditions. We've been engaged in this effort for many years and will not rest until the world's most productive and valuable wild salmon fishery, and a place that resides within the dreams of American sportsmen and women, is protected for this generation and generations to come. For as long as we need to, we will keep fighting for Bristol Bay. To that end, we look forward to working with the EPA

and all federal agencies with an interest and role in the future of Bristol Bay’s tremendously productive lands and waters.

The undersigned organizations urge EPA to move quickly and diligently to finalize durable, lasting protections under Clean Water Act Section 404(c) to ensure that the waters and wetlands in the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed are not turned into waste disposal sites for mining operations. We support a robust administrative process that ensures the Bristol Bay region will finally be free from the threat of Pebble Mine.

Respectfully,

2% for Conservation

AFFTA Fisheries Fund

American Fly Fishing Trade Association

Angler Action Foundation

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Houston Safari Club

International Caribou Foundation

International Game Fish Association

Izaak Walton League of America

Marine Fish Conservation Network

National Deer Association

National Wildlife Federation

Pope & Young Club

Wild Salmon Center

Wildlife Forever